

*A2
Cont'd*

B. a soundboard positioned to interact with the string vibration sections to enhance musical tones produced by vibration of said string sections, said soundboard being made of a plurality of composite material laminates comprised of one or more fibers and a polymeric resin with all fibers in said laminate being inorganic, each of said laminates [is] being comprised of essentially between [about] 40 and 60 percent resin, essentially between 0 and 10 percent filler, essentially between [about] 30 and 50 percent carbon fibers, and essentially between 0 and 20 percent glass fibers.

10. [The stringed musical instrument of claim 1 further including as part of said combination,]

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In a stringed musical instrument, the combination comprising:

A. a plurality of musical strings, each of which has a vibration section for defining a musical tone;

B. a soundboard positioned to interact with the string vibration sections to enhance musical tones produced by vibration of said string sections, said soundboard being made of a plurality of composite material laminates comprised of one or more fibers and a polymeric resin with all fibers in said laminate being inorganic; and

C. a sound resonator positioned and configured to receive vibrations from said soundboard, said resonator having at least two resonator defining surfaces selected to minimize the production of standing sound waves.

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Cancelled*

11. (amended) A soundboard for a stringed musical instrument having a plurality of musical strings, each of which has a vibration section for defining a musical tone, which soundboard is generally planar with a bridge on one side for said strings and comprises [comprising] a laminate material made up of inorganic [organic] fibers and a polymeric resin, [which] said material [has] having a stiffness to density ratio higher than wood and is in thickness and proportion to produce a desired sound[,]; a plurality of [relatively high stiffness to weight blade type] stiffeners depending from said material to provide internal bracing[,]; and one or more layers of a damped laminate on the other side of said bridge to reinforce said bridge [the same] and attenuate high frequency vibration overtones[, which soundboard is generally planer with a bridge on one side for said strings].

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17. (amended) [The stringed musical instrument of claim 16 further including] In a string musical instrument, the combination comprising:

A. a plurality of musical strings, each of which has a vibration section for defining a musical tone;

B. a body positioned to interact with the vibration sections of said strings to produce musical sounds, and a neck extending from said body to which said strings are secured and maintained in tension at said vibration sections, said neck including a plurality of composite laminate materials at one end that extend into said body to integrate said neck into said body and provide the support required by said neck to maintain said strings in tension; and

*A4
Cancelled*
C. a soundboard which receives musical tones from said strings and passes them on to a resonator defined at least partially by said body, which resonator includes at least a side wall and said plurality of composite laminates at said end of said neck extend into said resonator and along the interior surface of said side wall.

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20. (amended) In a method of making a stringed musical instrument having a plurality of musical strings, each of which has a vibration section for defining a musical tone, and a body for interacting with said strings to produce musical sounds, which body includes a soundboard[.] : the step of selecting a plurality of composite [lamin]ate materials material laminates from which to make said [body] soundboard with at least some of such laminates different from other of said laminates relative to fiber and resin to tailor the response of said [body] soundboard to vibrations [vibration] of said string sections.

Please amend claims 4-8, 15, 18 and 19 as follows:

Claim 4, line 2, after "made" insert ---essentially---.

Claim 5, line 3, before "between" insert ---essentially---;
same line, after "between" delete "about".

Claim 6, line 2, before "between" insert ---essentially---;
same line, after "between" delete "about".

Claim 7, line 1, change claim 1 to ---claim 3---.

Claim 8, line 1 change claim 1 to ---claim 3---;
line 5 (the 18th line of the page) after "bridge" insert ---saddle---;

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L same line, change "the same" to ---said soundboard at said bridge
saddle"---.

Claim 15, line 3 (line 14 of the page), before "between" insert ---essentially---;
same line after "between" delete "about".

Claim 18, lines 1-4 (lines 12-15 of the page), change "16 further
including...string sections," to ---17 wherein---;
line 4 (line 15 of the page), after "soundboard" insert ---is---;
same line delete "being".

NIE

Claim 19, line 5 (line 21 of the page), delete "relatively".

Please add the following claims:

21. A stringed musical instrument made by the method of claim 20.

22. In a stringed musical instrument, the combination comprising:

- a plurality of musical strings, each of which has a vibration section for defining a musical line;
- a generally planar soundboard positioned to interact with the string vibration sections to enhance musical tones produced by vibration of said string sections; said strings being on one side of said soundboard; and
- a plurality of blade stiffeners projecting outwardly from selected locations on the side of said generally planar soundboard opposite the side thereof having said strings, each of said blade stiffeners comprised of a

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